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App. No.: 09/071,864

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please as shown below amend claims 1, 11 and 20-22.

1. (currently amended) A method for providing an automated call connection system comprising the steps of:

- a first user contacting a call server to contact a specific person, hereinafter referred to as second user;
- the first user requesting the server to deliver a call back request to the second user;
- the server immediately attempting to contact the second user based on the first user requesting, without requiring the first user to have already attempted to directly contact by telephony the second user;
- the server prompting the second user whether to call the first user back;
- the second user optionally signaling acceptance of the call back request to the server; and
- if the second user signals to accept the call back request, the server automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.

2. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: the server using a separate packet-based network to determine if the second user is ready to accept the call back request.

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3. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: the server bypassing call toll charges by using a packet-based network for the sending of call back requests.

4. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, in which the server initiates a call from a device of the second user to a device of the first user.

5. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first user's request for a call back is sent via at least one of an E-mail message, a pager and a facsimile.

6. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the prompt is provided to the second user on a telephone display.

7. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first user uses a voice mail system to request the call back.

8. (original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a connection between the first user and the second user for a predetermined period of time;

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wherein the predetermined period of time is specified by the first user.

9. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first user is provided with the option of placing a message in a voice mail system if the call back request is refused.

10. (previously presented) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein a personal digital assistant is used by the first user to request the call back.

11. (currently amended) A system for providing an automated call connection comprising:

a first user input device for initiating and sending a call back request;

a second user output device for receiving the call back request, without requiring the first user to have already attempted to directly contact by telephony the second user; and

a server for transferring, immediately after the sending the call back request, the call back request from the first user input ~~output~~ device to the second user output device and for prompting the second user whether to call back the first user, and if the second user signals to the network connection to return the call, for immediately and automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user, wherein the second user is a person sought to be contacted by the first user.

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12. (previously presented) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the server connects to a separate packet-based network, the separate packet-based network determining if the second user is ready to accept the call back request.

13. (previously presented) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 12, wherein call toll charges are bypassed through use of the packet based network.

14. (previously presented) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user input device is at least one of a personal data assistant, a computer, a telephone and a facsimile machine.

15. (previously presented) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the second user output device is at least one of a personal data assistant, a computer, a telephone and a facsimile machine.

16. (previously presented) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user's call back request is sent via at least one of an E-mail message, a pager and a facsimile device.

17. (canceled)

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18. (previously presented) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user uses a voice mail system to request the call back.

19. (original) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the network connection is maintained for a predetermined period of time, and the predetermined period of time is specified by the first user.

20. (currently amended) A method for providing an automated call connection system comprising the steps of:

- a first user contacting a call server;
- the first user requesting the server to deliver a call back request to a second user;
- the server immediately attempting to contact the second user based on the first user requesting, without requiring the first user to have already attempted to directly contact by telephony the second user;
- the server prompting the second user whether to call the first user back;
- the second user optionally signaling acceptance of the call back request to the server; and
- if the second user signals to accept the call back request, the server automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.

21. (currently amended) A system for providing an automated call connection comprising:

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a first user input device for initiating and sending a call back request;

a second user output device for receiving the call back request; and

a server for transferring, immediately after the sending the call back request, the call back request from the first user input ~~output~~ device to the second user output device and for prompting the second user whether to call back the first user, without requiring the first user to have already attempted to directly contact by telephony the second user, and if the second user signals to the network connection to return the call, for immediately and automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.

22. (currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of providing an automated call connection system ~~as defined in claim 1~~, the method comprising the steps of:

a first user contacting a call server to contact a specific person, hereinafter referred to as second user;
the first user requesting the server to deliver a call back request to the second user;

wherein the first user awaits result of the call back request after the requesting;

the server immediately attempting to contact the second user based on the first user requesting;

the server prompting the second user whether to call the first user back;

the second user optionally signaling acceptance of the call back request to the server; and

if the second user signals to accept the call back request, the server automatically attempting to connect the

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first user and the second user, and wherein the server automatically attempting step comprises sending a message to the first user to instruct the first user to expect an imminent callback.